

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GUILTY VERDICT RETURNED AGAINST CAREER OFFENDER IN DRUG CONSPIRACY CASE WHO WILL SPEND THE NEXT 30 YEARS TO LIFE IN A FEDERAL PRISON

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on February 5, 2004, Rasford Muirs, (DOB 3-17-1956) of the Bronx, New York, AKA Allen Brown, Allan Brown, Clive Johnson, Remford Lewis, Renford Lewis, Gasford Mair, Gasford Muirs, Rosford Muirs, Cleve Reed, Cleve Reeds, Gasford Reid, Loiver Reid, Clyde Reid, Gasford Leard, Gasford Laird Reid, Clive Townsend, Sonny Townsend, Glendon Wilson, Florida, Sunny and Sonny B, was found guilty of Conspiracy to Possess with the Intent to Distribute Marijuana by a federal jury in Phoenix, Arizona. Several co-defendants who testified at trial had previously pled guilty to federal narcotics violations.

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The evidence at trial showed that, as the leader of a major marijuana drug trafficking network, Muirs made arrangements for the distribution of large amounts of marijuana to be shipped from Phoenix, Arizona, to New York. The organization led by Muirs would pick up large amounts of marijuana from a Tucson, Arizona, source and drive the marijuana to Phoenix, Arizona. From Phoenix, Arizona, the marijuana would be flown to New York. The organization used young female couriers in their mid twenties and early thirties who were responsible for secreting the marijuana in their luggage. The couriers were employed full-time in other fields. Approximately thirty pounds of marijuana would be packed in luggage that would be checked on a commercial airplane. The courier co-defendants were paid to fly with the marijuana and deliver it to individuals in New York. During trial, the evidence showed that Muirs made incriminating statements to law enforcement.

The case was tried before United States District Court Judge Susan R. Bolton on February 3, 2004 through February 5, 2004. The defendant's sentencing is scheduled to take place on March 23, 2004. As a career offender, the defendant faces a sentencing range of 360 months to life imprisonment. All of the defendant's prior convictions were for drug offenses. The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration (Arizona), Phoenix Police Department and the New York State Police. The prosecution is being handled by Steven P. Logan and John R. Lopez IV, Assistant United States Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-156-PHX-SRB
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